

THE
C A S E
 Of the poor
GRECIAN SEAMEN.

IT doth often happen, that many of the *English* Seamen
 dying in their Voyages, or after their Arrival at *Smyrna*,
 and other Parts of *Greece*, the *English* Merchants are
 forced to hire *Grecians* to man their Ships for their Re-
 turn; and many of them such as have Wives and Children
 at home. These being no Subjects of *England*, but Subjects
 either to the *Turks*, or to the *Venetians*, ought not to be
 pressed to serve against their Wills, neither by the Laws of
England, nor by the Law of Nations, much less by the Laws
 of Christianity, which require Charity to all Men, and more
 especially to Strangers. Notwithstanding they are often
 press'd by our Press-masters; and some, when they come on
 Shoal, press'd again before they have received their Arrears;
 and detained in Service here to the Damage of their Families
 at home; and some to save themselves are forced to abscond,
 and then are prick'd Run, and so lose all. And there are
 computed to be about 40 or 50 of these now on board Her
 Majesty's Fleet. All which being contrary to Law, and
 Scandalous in a Christian State, is to be presumed to be
 done without the Knowledge of the Lord High Admiral or
 his Council, and therefore may be hoped will be taken into
 Consideration, and be rectified upon Notice of it, as a matter
 of more Scandal than Advantage to the State, and indeed of
 no Advantage at all, since they come not to stay, but to serve
 for Wages, and would of themselves do so, either in the Navy,
 or on Merchant-Ships, out of which the more *English* might
 be spared.

Were

WERE there no more than this in the Case, it might deserve to be considered by all Persons who have any Sense of Religion, or of the *Honour of the Nation*: but upon farther Discourse with an intelligent *Grecian*, it appears to be more considerable: For whereas they might have very considerable *Advantages* in divers respects in the Service of the *Turks*, they choose rather to serve *Christians*; tho' many of them are very ignorant in the Religion they profess and retain under such Disadvantages, from whence ariseth a *double Obligation* upon all Christian States where they serve; 1. To take Pity on them as *Christian Sufferers* and for *Christianity*; and suffer them to enjoy their *Christian Liberty*, to serve whom and where they please for their own *Advantage*; and to let them who serve have their *Wages* duly paid without delay or trouble: 2. That some Provisions may be made for their *Instruction*, both at *Sea* and *Land*, which may be done without building of Churches or any extraordinary Charge: At *Land*, by allowing a moderate Maintenance for one or two proper Persons at most, and a convenient ordinary House; and at *Sea*, by letting them all serve together in the same *Ship*, and such as goes to their own *Country*, and one or two fit Persons to instruct them.

But instead of any thing of this, they are commonly so used by our *Press-Masters*, that they *complain*, that they do but change their *Slavery*; that they are pull'd and hall'd by the *Press-Masters* like Dogs out of the *Merchant-Ships* and put upon Men of War; that they are kept on Service so long that they have no reasonable Opportunity to see or relieve their Families and Relations; that there is little Care taken of them when they are sick at *Land*, but are often prickt run; and that of those who are kill'd or die at *Sea*, their *Arrears* very rarely come to their Relations. All this might be remedied without any Prejudice to the Service of Her Majesty, by an *Order* to discharge them all, and set them free, to engage themselves where they please; and for the speedy Payment of their *Arrears*.

